Assumption of the Virgin Mary



Brief description: Roundels from rose window designed by John Hungerford Pollen and made by James Powell and Sons, Whitefriars in 1863. The panel in the centre features a full length portrayal of Virgin Mary in blue robe and depicts the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. The outside roundels depict angels.

Rose' windows are circular windows, with a central circular light and surrounding lights forming 'petals'. This one depicts the Virgin MaryÂ's Assumption to Heaven, an important subject in Catholic art representing the belief that MaryÂ's body was assumed to heaven at the end of her earthly life. The Virgin Mary, resplendent in blue with hands raised and sunlight beaming out behind her, is depicted in the central light. Around her are octofoil (eight-lobed) and cinquefoil (five-lobed) lights depicting angels with their hands clasped in prayer. This window was designed by John Hungerford Pollen (1820-1902) and made in the studio of James Powell and Sons, Whitefriars, in 1863 for the Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption in Rhyl, Wales (now demolished). Hungerford Pollen designed the entire church and the majority of its furnishings, including the altar and reredos. John Hungerford Pollen was influenced by the painters of the Pre-Raphaelite movement and worked with them on the murals of the Oxford Debating Society in 1857. His most notable stained glass is at St Wilfrid's, Ripon. He was later to become involved in the Arts and Crafts movement. The firm of James Powell Sons played an important part in the revival of antique glass, inspired by Charles Winston, which reproduced the qualities admired in medieval glass as well as its colour. During the second half of the nineteenth century, Powell's did much to promote the craft by employing a number of distinguished artists as freelance designers. The Firm was later known as Whitefriars, and closed in 1973.

Object type: window

Number of objects: 9

Production date: 1863

Production period: 19th century, mid

Designer: John Hungerford Pollen

Manufacturer: Powell, James and Sons

Dimensions: Diameter: 1170 mm, Diameter: 640 mm

Original location: Church of the Assumption Rhyl Denbighs Wales rose window Denbighshire

Acquisition: purchase 1976

Acquisition source: Peter Joliffe (Contractor)

This item is only partly on display

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